

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A speech processing method, comprising the steps of:  
2 operating a first device to receive speech;  
3 transmitting the received speech from the first  
4 device to a remote speech processing facility via the  
5 Internet;  
6 performing a speech recognition operation on said  
7 speech at the remote speech processing facility; and  
8 performing an action based on the outcome of the  
9 speech recognition operation.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of  
2 performing an action includes:  
3 transmitting information generated from said  
4 speech recognition operation via the Internet.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2,  
2 wherein said information generated from said  
3 speech recognition operation is information indicating at  
4 least some of the recognized content of said speech.
- 1 4. The method of claim 2,  
2 wherein said step of performing an action  
3 includes:  
4 retrieving from memory a telephone number  
5 associated with a name which was recognized in said  
6 speech; and



7               bridging said telephone call and said  
8       additional telephone call.

3           receiving via the Internet said telephone  
4    number where the human being who was the source of speech  
5    corresponding to said speech data can be contacted.

1     11. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of  
2     performing an action includes:

1        12. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of  
2        performing an action includes:

3           transmitting information generated from said  
4       speech recognition operation to a device via the  
5       Internet.



1        17. The method of claim 16, wherein the second  
2        vocabulary is larger than the first vocabulary.

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2 19. The method of claim 15, further comprising:  
3 when the first device recognizes a word  
4 representing a name with which a telephone number is  
5 associated, the first device:  
6 initiating a telephone call to said telephone  
number.

1        20. The method of claim 15, the method further  
2        comprising the steps of:  
3                performing a feature vector extraction  
4        operation on said received speech; and  
5                including the extracted speech feature vectors  
6        in said speech data.

1        21. The method of claim 20, further comprising the step  
2        of:  
3                including a digital recording of said received  
4        speech in said speech data.

1        22. The method of claim 15, further comprising the step  
2        of:

3           receiving a telephone number from said remote  
4   speech processing facility; and

5           initiating a telephone call by dialing the  
6   received telephone number.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein when the first device fails to recognize any words in the first vocabulary in said received speech, the first device further performs the step of:

5 transmitting to the remote speech processing  
6 facility a contact telephone number corresponding to a  
7 telephone at which a human being who was the source of  
8 the received speech can be contacted.

24. A speech processing system comprising, comprising:  
a speech processing facility coupled to the  
Internet, the speech processing facility including:

4                   i. a receiver for receiving speech data  
5                   from the Internet;

6                   ii. a speech recognizer for performing a  
7                   speech recognition operation on speech received  
8                   via the Internet; and

9                   iii. means for performing an action based  
10                   on the outcome of the speech recognition  
11                   operation; and

12           a device coupled to the Internet, the device  
13   including:

i. a microphone for receiving speech; and

ii. a transmitter coupled to the Internet for transmitting speech data including at least some of the received speech in digital form to said speech processing facility.

1        25. The system of claim 24, wherein said device further  
2                comprises:

3           a speech recognizer for performing a speech  
4   recognition operation on said received speech prior to  
5   transmitting it to said speech recognition facility.

1        26. The system of claim 25, wherein said device further  
2        includes:

3           means for dialing a telephone number associated  
4    with a name when said speech recognizer identifies the  
5    name in received speech.

1        27.    A speech processing facility, comprising:

2                   means for receiving speech data transmitted  
3    over the Internet;

4           a speech recognizer for performing a speech  
5    recognition operation on the received speech data; and

6           means for performing an action based on the  
7    results of the speech recognition operation performed  
8    using the received speech information.

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